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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,638	10/20/2003	Kiyoshi Kawano	P23967	1796
7055 7590 04/02/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER HENN, TIMOTHY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/02/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,638

Applicant(s)

KAWANO ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy J. Henn

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohishi et al. (US 5,742,341) in view of Hosokawa et al. (US 6,341,202).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Ohishi discloses a portable electronic device provided with a folding type image indicating device (e.g. Figures 6 and 7). However, Ohishi does not disclose an operational member and a light source as claimed. Hosokawa discloses an operational member (Figure 5) for a camera which includes an illuminator (Figure 5; Items 51) which allows easy changing of modes and an indicate to the user which mode is selected (e.g. c. 1, l. 65 - c. 2, l. 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the operational member of Hosokawa on the camera of Ohishi to allow easy mode selection and visual

indication of a chosen mode.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Hosokawa discloses an operational body section (Figure 1, Items 121) and a light guide section (Figure 1, Item 123), wherein light from the light source is supplied to the operational body section through the light guide section (Figures 4 and 5; LEDs 51 illuminate the mode dial through characters 124a-124h).

[claim 5]

Regarding claim 5, Hosokawa discloses includes an operational member which includes a function relating to the image indicating device (e.g. a mode; c. 10, ll. 16-28).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohishi et al. (US 5,742,341) in view of Hosokawa et al. (US 6,341,202) in view of Nagai (US 2002/0012066).

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Ohishi in view of Hosokawa discloses a plurality of selective modes corresponding to operations of the image indicating device provided on the operational member (e.g. a mode; Hosokawa, c. 10, ll. 16-28). However, Ohishi in view of Hosokawa does not disclose a light source with selectively emits a plurality of colors corresponding to the modes. Nagai discloses an indicating light for a camera which can select different colors or emitting patterns to indicate various conditions or "modes" of the camera (Paragraph 0022). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a light source

which can selectively emit different colors to indicate conditions or "modes" of the camera device of Ohishi in view of Hosokawa.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohishi et al. (US 5,742,341) in view of Hosokawa et al. (US 6,341,202) in view of Haga et al. (US 2001/0028498).

[claim 6]

Regarding claim 6, Ohishi in view of Hosokawa does not disclose a portable electronic device which comprises binoculars. However, combination camera/binoculars are well known in the art. For example, Haga discloses a combination camera/binocular device which provides the functions of both a camera and a pair of binoculars without requiring separate devices to be carried by the user (e.g. Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include binocular functionality in the camera of Ohishi in view of Hosokawa to increase the usefulness of the device.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a portable electronic device as claimed in which a light source supplied to a light guide section from a side of the operational body section wherein the light guide section comprises a reflecting portion that leads the light supplied to the light guide section to the operational body section as claimed. While the use of light guides is known in the art, the specific arrangement claimed is not taught or suggested.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

i.	Vale et al.	US 2003/0146977
ii.	Meyerhoefer	US 5,555,046
iii.	Yoshida	US 6,761,462

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TJH
3/17/2007


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER